

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-39. (Canceled)

40. (**Currently Amended**) A method of treating a blood sample that comprises at least one analyte, comprising:

providing a strip comprising a membrane, the membrane comprising

a receiving portion for receiving the blood sample;

a first location having a first reagent disposed thereon, the first reagent sufficient to lyse cells in the blood sample; and

a second location downstream relative to the first location having a second reagent disposed thereon, the second reagent sufficient to capture an analyte of the hemoglobin in the blood sample;

providing an eluting agent disposed on the strip upstream relative to the first location, the eluting agent sufficient to elute hemoglobin in the blood sample;

applying an untreated whole blood sample to the receiving portion of the membrane; ~~and~~

allowing the eluting agent to flow downstream along the membrane and contact the untreated whole blood sample, and

detecting a level of the analyte captured at the second location.

41. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 40, wherein the membrane has a property selected from wicking functionality, capillary functionality, porosity, and any combination thereof.

42. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 40, wherein the first reagent is selected from a detergent, a hypotonic solution, and any combination thereof.

43. (**Previously Presented**) The method of claim 40, wherein the eluting agent is selected from a buffer, a solvent, and any combination thereof.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 40, wherein the second reagent is selected from an antibody, a chemical reagent comprising at least one ligand sufficient for binding the analyte, and any combination thereof.

45. **(Original)** The method of claim 40, wherein the analyte is glycated hemoglobin.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 40, wherein the membrane further comprises a third location downstream relative to the second location having a third reagent disposed thereon, the third reagent sufficient to capture another analyte of the hemoglobin in the untreated whole blood sample.

47. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 46, wherein the third reagent is selected from an antibody, a glycoprotein, a chemical reagent comprising at least one ligand sufficient for binding the another analyte, and any combination thereof.

48. **(Original)** The method of claim 46, wherein the another analyte is non-glycated hemoglobin.

49. **(Original)** The method of claim 40, wherein providing an eluting agent comprises providing a means for containing the eluting agent.

50. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 49, wherein the means is selected from an absorbent pad, a pouch, a blister, and any combination thereof.

51. **(Original)** The method of claim 49, wherein allowing the eluting agent to flow comprises releasing the eluting agent from the means.

52. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 51, wherein the releasing is selected from breaking an integrity of the means, applying a pressure to the means, and any combination thereof.

53.-90. **(Canceled)**

91. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 40, wherein the first location is downstream relative to the receiving portion for receiving the untreated whole blood sample.

92. **(Canceled)**

93. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 40, wherein said ~~the subsystem for~~ detecting ~~the at least one analyte~~ comprises obtaining an optical signal that relates to the amount of the analyte of interest captured at the second location.

94. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 40, wherein the eluting agent is allowed to flow downstream when a release condition is met.

95. **(Canceled)**